

State and the Department of Labor, to closely monitor the impact of these provisions to determine whether the next congress should revisit these changes made to the H-1B program.

I had hoped that the Congress would take this opportunity to address important issues of fairness affecting many immigrants already in this country. We need to meet the needs of the high-tech industry by raising the number of visas for temporary high-tech workers. But we also must ensure fairness for immigrants who have been in this country for years, working hard and paying taxes. The Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act (LIFA) will allow people who have lived here for 15 years or more—and who have established families and strong ties to their communities—to become permanent residents. It will also amend the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) to extend the same protections currently offered to people from Cuba and Nicaragua to immi-

grants from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti, and Liberia who fled to this country to escape serious hardship. Finally, it will allow families to stay together while their applications for permanent resident status are being processed. These fundamental fairness provisions have been embraced by humanitarian groups, business groups, and Members of the Congress from both sides of the aisle. I will continue to insist strongly on passage of the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act this year, before the Congress adjourns.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
October 17, 2000.

NOTE: S. 2045, approved October 17, was assigned Public Law No. 106–313, and H.R. 5362, approved October 17, was assigned Public Law No. 106–311.

## Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the Railroad Retirement Board

*October 17, 2000*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board for Fiscal Year 1999, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of

the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(l) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,  
October 17, 2000.

## Remarks at the President's Cup Dinner

*October 17, 2000*

Thank you very much. I'm sorry to be the only person here who is not properly dressed. [Laughter] But as Tim said, I just got off the airplane, and I wanted to come by and welcome you to Washington and say how thrilled I am to be the honorary chair of the President's Cup this year. I'm pleased we're going back to RTJ and that my friend and golfing partner Vernon Jordan is the president of the club, so he'll let me on to walk around a little and watch you.

I want to thank Ken Venturi and Peter Thomson for serving as the captains of the teams. And I want to thank Tim Finchem who, like Vernon, has been a friend of mine for well over 20 years, for the outstanding leadership he provides the PGA.

I'm delighted to have you here, and I want to say a special word of appreciation for the work the President's Cup does, first, to raise money for worthy charities. When you finish this year, you will have raised over \$6 million

in the last four Cups for worthy causes. And I'm very grateful for that, and you should be proud of it.

You know, like all ardent golfers, I sometimes go over the top in explaining to people why golf is like life or why life ought to be more like golf. But I would like to say, as you know, I just went to Sharm al-Sheikh in Egypt to try to reach an agreement to end the violence that we've seen in the Palestinian territories in Israel for the last couple of weeks. I don't know if any of you have ever been there, but it is one of the most beautiful places on Earth, and it is exploding in development because the climate is so perfect. And I sat there for a day and a half, didn't sleep, and all our meetings were conducted on the edge of one of the most beautiful golf courses I've ever seen in my life. [Laughter] So I thought to myself, "Why am I being punished for the fact that I can't solve this problem here?"

But what it made me think of coming back here is that we all come from countries which at one time or another had significant internal strife, where people had to overcome their differences. I was very moved, when I saw Greg at the closing ceremony of the Olympics, by the incredible way that Australia not only welcomed the Olympics but used the Olympics to show the healing process that has gone on between the aboriginal people and the other citizens of Australia.

Everybody knows now that America is becoming the great melting pot of the world. And it's well to remember that the kind of understanding that you have, the idea that people play by certain rules, and if you do, everybody is treated with equal respect, is really the way the world ought to work and the kind of idea we're trying to bring to all the troubled places in the world but most importantly to the Middle East, which ironically is the home to all three of the world's great monotheistic religions and is still one of the most bedeviled places on the planet.

I hope you have a great time over the next several days. I hope that no matter who wins or who loses, that you'll show the world one more example of how our common humanity is more important than our interesting diversity. I'll look forward to seeing you tomorrow at the opening ceremony.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:50 p.m. in the Main Hall at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Tim Finchem, commissioner, PGA Tour; Vernon Jordan, president, Robert Trent Jones Golf Club; Ken Venturi, U.S. team captain, and Peter Thomson, international team captain, President's Cup tournament; and professional golfer Greg Norman.

## Remarks at the Memorial Service for Crewmembers of the U.S.S. *Cole* in Norfolk, Virginia October 18, 2000

*The President.* Secretary Cohen; General Reno; Secretary Danzig; General Shelton; distinguished Members of the Senate and House; Governor; Admiral Clark; Admiral Natter; Chaplain Black; Master Chief Herdt; Master Chief Hefty; the sailors of the U.S.S. *Cole*; the family members and friends; the Norfolk naval community; my fellow Americans. Today we honor our finest young people, fallen soldiers who rose to freedom's challenge. We mourn their loss, celebrate their lives, offer the love and prayers of a grateful nation to their families.

For those of us who have to speak here, we are all mindful of the limits of our poor words to lift your spirits or warm your hearts. We know that God has given us the gift of reaching our middle years. And we now have to pray for your children, your husbands, your wives, your brothers, your sisters who were taken so young. We know we will never know them as you did or remember them as you will, the first time you saw them in uniform or the last time you said goodbye.

They all had their own stories and their own dreams. We Americans have learned something